

DISTRIBUTION OF PACKETS IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS
SYSTEM USING MULTICAST PROTOCOLS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A communications system includes base transceiver stations providing wireless services for mobile units. The system further includes a packet network coupling the stations to a gateway. To distribute information received for communication to a mobile unit, the gateway may encapsulate the information as a multicast packet addressed to a multicast address. This multicast address corresponds to a multicast group associated with the mobile unit. The packet network distributes copies of the multicast packet to a group of stations that are registered for the multicast group. These stations may then communicate information from the multicast packet to the mobile unit using wireless communications techniques.